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CS 415: Social Implications of Computing

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Fall 2004 Syllabus

CS 415 Social Implications of Computing

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CS 415 is a communication skills course using as its subject matter current salient issues associated with the social implications of computing. In addition to the course text, you will need to use certain reading materials in the library and elsewhere, and you will be responsible for using concepts and theories provided in class lectures and discussions.

The goal of this course is to blend social implications issues with common technical communication formats you'll need to be familiar with out in the "real world." To do this, the course is built around a research project on a social implications topic of your choice. You will propose your topic for approval in a written proposal and make a short proposal presentation to the class. You will also be required to make a formal presentation to the class on your research and turn in a formal research report.

Grades

Your grade in this course will be derived as follows:

- Proposal 30%
- Class Presentation 20%
- Research Report 50%

It's easy to see that the stakes go up as the quarter goes along, and that doing well in the research report is essential to doing well (or, for some, even getting by) in this course. Plan ahead and budget your time and resources accordingly.

Writing Assignments

The format rules for writing assignments are remarkably simple.

- First, everything you turn in must be typed or machine printed on standard 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Electronic submissions (email, FAX) are not allowed and will not be accepted.
- Second, all text must be double-spaced (single sided is preferred but not required).
- Third, you have to use easily readable fonts of traditional size - i.e., in the range of 10 to 12 characters per inch for the body of the paper.
- Fourth, you have to use traditionally sized margins on the top and bottom and the left and right sides. Margins from 3/4" to 1 1/4" are traditional enough for CS 415.

Proposal (*Text, Chapter 5*)

Write a 4-6 page proposal for the research project you will do in this course. Read Chapter 6 on Informal Proposals, and double check yourself against the Proposal Checklist on pp. 108-109. Make sure your proposal meets the content and format requirements specified in the CS 415 Request for Proposal (RFP) for Fall 2004.

Research Report (*Text, Chapter 10. Also, see Chapters 12, 13, 14, and 18*)

This paper is clearly where the rubber meets the road in CS 415. You'll have a great deal of freedom in deciding what to put in your research report, but the content should be such as to achieve all the elements of your approved proposal. As a minimum, however, the research report, which is the major deliverable of your proposal "contract," must include the following sections, along with at least one visual (illustration, chart, table, or other graphic). Use the Research Report Outline 11.1, p. 192, in the course text. Your document should include the following things:

- A short Transmittal Letter which formally delivers the document.
- An Informative Abstract of not more than 250 words.
- An Introduction that includes the purpose, problem, and scope of the report.
- A Background section (if needed) that provides theoretical and/or historical perspectives for the topic.
- A Discussion section which presents the findings and results of your research.
- A Conclusion section that summarizes the report and provides any conclusions and recommendations if appropriate.
- A List of References at the end along with needed citations throughout the report. Use the simple documentation system described in Chapter 14 of the text, pp. 247-260.

Your assignment is to produce a finished, professional research report at least 10 pages in length (not counting transmittal letter, abstract, documentation, and appendix).

Class Presentations (*Text, Chapter 15*)

As a communication skills course, CS 415 also requires you to stand up and make two presentations to the class: an informal presentation on your proposal, and a formal presentation to the class on your research project. The informal proposal presentation does not require visuals and should not exceed 5 minutes. The formal research report presentation must include visuals - e.g., viewgraphs, paper charts, handouts, video, etc., and must run 10- 15 minutes in length (not including any questions that may occur afterward). See Chapter 17 in your course text. After both presentations, you may also have the opportunity to answer questions on the material you presented. The schedule for class presentations will be developed during the quarter.

Class Attendance

Attendance is required.

Paper Turn-in

Papers are due at the first of the class period on the turn-in dates designated in this syllabus. Late papers receive an automatic deduction of 1/2 letter grade for the first 24 hours, and a full letter grade for every 24 hours thereafter. Papers received without all of the required parts, as described in this syllabus and in course handouts, are subject to a failing grade.

Academic Deficiency and Dishonesty

CS415 is a writing intensive course, and, as such, you must do your own writing. If you extensively use materials that are not yours, even if you properly document their use, you may still fail the assignment for academic deficiency. If you commit dishonesty by plagiarizing materials that are not yours, you will automatically fail the course for academic deficiency and receive the full penalty provided for by the university and college academic

dishonesty policies. See Chapter 2 for a discussion of ethics and pay particular attention to the section on plagiarism. If in doubt, ask Dr. Finkelstein.

Class Schedule

- See calendars attached.

Course Text

Leo Finkelstein, Jr., *Pocket Book of Technical Writing for Engineers and Scientists*, 2nd Ed., Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2005. You will need this text for guidance when writing your proposal and research report. This text is also used in EGR 335. No text is specified for social implications topics because of the dynamic nature of the subject and the amount of readily available research materials in periodicals and on the Web.

Writing Across the Curriculum

CS 415 has been designated as a Writing Intensive (WI) Course in the Major for engineering and computer science students.

How to get help!

Ask Dr. Finkelstein . . .

- Call him on the phone at: 937/775-5124
- Send him email at: lfinkel@cs.wright.edu or check his homepage at www.finkelnet.com
- Come by his office (414 RC) . . .
- . . . during office hours on M W 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
 . . . by appointment on MTWT 8:30 - 4:30 (Note: he is mostly in class all day Tuesday and Thursday.)
 . . . or anytime . . . just drop by

Course Calendars and Attachments follow.

September 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
		Lsn 1 Intro to course Digital revolution		Lsn 2 Protecting intellectual property		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Lsn 3 Computer crime and piracy		Lsn 4 Computers and national security		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		Lsn 5 Invasion of privacy		Lsn 6 Health hazards & health care		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Lsn 7 Review proposal writing		Lsn 8 E-commerce and online trading/banking		
26	27	28	29	30		

October 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	Lsn 9 Proposal presentations PROP DUE	6	Lsn 10 Proposal presentations	8	9
10	11	Lsn 11 Schedule research pres. Review briefings. FB 297,	13	Lsn 12 Review research reports, style, & doc. FB 191, 229, 247	15	16
17	18	Lsn 13 Research pres day 1	20	Lsn 21 Research pres day 2	22	23
24	25	Lsn 15 Research pres day 3	27	Lsn 16 Research pres day 4	29	30
31						

November 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Lsn 17 Research pres day 5		Lsn 18 Research pres day 6		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		LAST CLASS Lsn 19 Research pres day 7 FR due in 405RC NLT noon, Nov 12.		Veterans Day NO CLASS	Research Rpts DUE NLT Noon in 405 RC	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Attachment: RFP**Request for Proposal (RFP)****CS 415 Research report (Fall 2004)**

All students of CS 415, Fall Quarter 2004, are hereby notified to submit individual proposals for their research reports not later than the start of their respective class period on October 5, 2004.

Objectives

The requested proposal serves two purposes.

1. It constitutes a graded proposal assignment worth 30 percent of the course points to provide CS 415 students with minimal experience and familiarity in writing proposals.
2. It provides a coherent mechanism by which CS 415 students can develop a topic for their research report assignment and receive critical feedback.

Topic Constraints

The research report is the capstone assignment of CS 415 and accounts for 50 percent of the course points. The proposed research report topic should be selected from the student's major field of study, should be focused on some aspect of the social implications of computing technology, and should be substantial enough to qualify as a major course project.

Proposal Content

To be acceptable, proposals submitted in response to this RFP must follow Outline 6.1 for Informal Proposals in the course text, pp., 88-89, and must contain the following:

Introduction

- A Purpose Statement clearly stating that the proposed topic will fulfill the Research Report requirement for CS 415, Fall 2004.
- A Background Statement that provides information on the proposed topic, and that demonstrates the efficacy of this topic for the CS 415 Research Report assignment. In other words, describe the topic and show how it fulfills the requirement for a social implications of computing research paper.
- A Scope Statement that clearly defines what will and will not be treated in the proposed research report.

Discussion

- An Approach Statement that details specifically what the proposed paper will contain and how the research will be conducted.
- A Result Statement that defines the benefits of this report in terms of providing information and fulfilling course requirements.
- A Statement of Work that lays out the major tasks for completing the Research Report assignment, including the primary deliverables: the Research Report Briefing and the Research Report Document. Each task statement also should clarify why the task is needed.

Resources

- A Personnel Statement specifying who will be doing the work or providing other resources, and why they are qualified.
- A Facilities and Equipment Statement specifying what physical resources will be required and how they will be obtained.

Costs

- A Fiscal Statement showing the proposed budget for the project, including such costs as labor, travel, materials, and computer access.
- A Time Statement showing the hours required to complete the proposed research report. Note: this information may be included in the Statement of Work.

Conclusion

- A Benefits Statement describing the advantages of adopting this proposed topic, as well as any risks associated with doing this topic.
- A Contact Statement listing an e-mail address or phone number where more information about this proposal can be obtained.

Proposal Format

To be acceptable, proposals submitted in response to this RFP must follow the format requirements specified in the CS 415 Course Syllabus for Fall 2004 under the heading "Writing Assignments" and must be 4 - 6 pages in length.

Proposal Documentation

To be acceptable, proposals submitted in response to this RFP must provide any required documentation using one of the formats provided in the course text, Chapter 14, pp. 247 - 260.

Proposal Checklist

To be acceptable, proposals submitted in response to this RFP must be consistent with the Proposal Checklist in the course text, pp. 108-109.

Deliverables and Schedule

Students will provide for the following deliverables in their Proposal:

- Research Report Presentation dealing with some aspect of the Research Report at a time and place to be determined.
- Research Report document due in 405RC not later than noon, Friday, November 12, 2004.

References

Course Text

Finkelstein, Leo, Jr., *Pocket Book of Technical Writing for Engineers and Scientists*, 2nd Ed.
Boston: McGraw-Hill, 2005.

Course Syllabus

Finkelstein, Leo, Jr., CS 415 Course Syllabus, Fall 2004.